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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ANNUAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE CONFERENCE KICKS OFF

Indianapolis, IN (September 13, 2007) The Indiana's Emergency Response Conference, hosted by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, Indiana Fire Chief's Association, and the Indiana Firefighters Association will be held today through September 16 at the Marriott East Hotel, 21st and Shadeland Avenue. Over 800 personnel representing emergency medical technicians, physicians, nurses, fire departments, and paramedics are expected to attend the conference.

The four-day conference includes sessions aimed at enhancing the skills of Indiana's emergency response personnel. National experts will give presentations on the latest in the field of life support, pediatric life support, patient care, and trauma care as well as two Paramedics from Great Britain speaking on the London Bombing Experience.

"Emergency medical response personnel often go unrecognized for their service and dedication, even though they are often the first responder on the scene," said J. Eric Dietz, IDHS Executive Director. "I commend these men and women on the invaluable service they provide their fellow Hoosiers."

The conference also includes the annual Governor's Cup Ambulance Service Provider competition. Competing ambulance teams from around the state display their proficiencies by responding to an emergency scenario. Participants compete in four categories: Basic Emergency Medical Technician, Basic-Advanced Medical Technician, Intermediate Emergency Medical Technician and Paramedic.

Governor's Cup Ambulance Service Provider competition winners receive their awards at the conference's banquet on Saturday evening. In addition, numerous other emergency response personnel will receive awards recognizing their service at the banquet.

In addition to the conference sessions, ambulance competition and banquet, the conference includes a memorial service on Sunday morning. The service honors the men and women of the emergency medical service profession who passed away in the last year.

For more information on the conference please visit our website at www.in.gov/dhs/files/07online.pdf.

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